

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A leaf for retaining visual material, said leaf comprising:
a front sheet formed from an optically transparent material;
a back sheet formed from an optically transparent material and attached to said front sheet to form a sleeve thereinbetween; and
a plurality of pockets formed from first and second sheets of optically transparent material, each of said plurality of pockets attached to said front sheet along one edge, each of said plurality of pockets forming a living hinge proximate said one edge to allow each of said plurality of pockets to be lifted relative to living hinge and thus relative to said front sheet, and, each of said first and second sheets having a size that is less than a size of said front sheet.
2. The leaf of claim 1, wherein said plurality of pockets are positioned proximate one another in a side-by-side arrangement.
3. The leaf of claim 1, wherein said plurality of pockets are positioned in a stacked arrangement, with each pocket that is

positioned on top of an adjacent pocket at least partially overlapping said adjacent pocket.

4. The leaf of claim 1, wherein said plurality of pockets form a margin on said front sheet, said sleeve for receiving a background so that the background is visible in said margin of said front sheet when received within said sleeve.

5. The leaf of claim 1, wherein said living hinge is formed by a plastic weld.

6. The leaf of claim 1, wherein said plurality of pockets includes an attachment portion integrally formed with said plurality of pockets for coupling said plurality of pockets to said front sheet.

7. The leaf of claim 6, further including at least one pocket attached to said front sheet, said attachment portion sized to fit within said at least one pocket for coupling said plurality of pockets to said front sheet.

8. The leaf of claim 6, wherein said attachment portion is configured for being adhesively attached to said first sheet.

9. The leaf of claim 1, wherein said front and back sheets and said plurality of pockets are formed from a thermoplastic

material.

10. The leaf of claim 1, wherein said front sheet is attached to said back sheet by heat welding to form seams along at least three edges thereof.

11. The leaf of claim 1, further comprising a binding portion configured to engage with a binder.

12. The leaf of claim 11, wherein said binding portion is configured to engage with a three-ring binder.

13. The leaf of claim 1, wherein said plurality of pockets are sized to be one of about 2 inches by 2 inches, 3 1/2 inches by 5 inches, 4 inches by 6 inches, 5 inches by 7 inches and 8 inches by 10 inches.

14. The leaf of claim 13, wherein said front and back sheets are sized to form a pocket of one of about 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches and 12 inches by 12 inches.

15. An album comprising:

a binder including a binding structure;

a plurality of leaves, each said leaf including:

a front sheet formed from an optically transparent material;

a back sheet formed from an optically transparent material and
attached to said front sheet to form a sleeve

thereinbetween; and

a plurality of pockets formed from first and second sheets of optically transparent material, each of said plurality of pockets attached to said front sheet along one edge, each of said plurality of pockets forming a living hinge proximate said one edge to allow each of said plurality of pockets to be lifted relative to living hinge and thus relative to said front sheet, and, each of said first and second sheets having a size that is less than a size of said front sheet.

16. The leaf of claim 15, wherein said plurality of pockets are positioned proximate one another in a side-by-side arrangement.

17. The leaf of claim 15, wherein said plurality of pockets are positioned in a stacked arrangement, with each pocket that is positioned on top of an adjacent pocket at least partially overlapping said adjacent pocket.

18. The leaf of claim 1, wherein said plurality of pockets form a margin on said front sheet, said sleeve for receiving a background so that the background is visible in said margin of said front sheet when received within said sleeve.

19. The leaf of claim 1, wherein said living hinge is formed by a plastic weld.

20. The leaf of claim 1, wherein said plurality of pockets includes an attachment portion integrally formed with said plurality of pockets for coupling said plurality of pockets to said front sheet.

21. The leaf of claim 20, further including at least one pocket attached to said front sheet, said attachment portion sized to fit within said at least one pocket for coupling said plurality of pockets to said front sheet.

22. The leaf of claim 20, wherein said attachment portion is configured for being adhesively attached to said first sheet.

23. The leaf of claim 1, wherein said front and back sheets and said plurality of pockets are formed from a thermoplastic material.

24. The leaf of claim 1, wherein said front sheet is attached to said back sheet by heat welding to form seams along at least three edges thereof.

24. The leaf of claim 1, further comprising a binding portion configured to engage with a binder.

25. The leaf of claim 24, wherein said binding portion is

configured to engage with a three-ring binder.

26. The leaf of claim 15, wherein said plurality of pockets are sized to be one of about 2 inches by 2 inches, 3 1/2 inches by 5 inches, 4 inches by 6 inches, 5 inches by 7 inches and 8 inches by 10 inches. 15. A method for customizing an album, said method comprising:

27. The leaf of claim 26, wherein said front and back sheets are sized to form a pocket of one of about 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches and 12 inches by 12 inches.